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COUNCIL

Meeting to be held on Monday 8 December 2014

Please see the attached questions and motions received for consideration.

- 4 **QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC WHERE NOTICE HAS BEEN GIVEN.** (Pages 3 - 4)
- 5 **ORAL QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL WHERE NOTICE HAS BEEN GIVEN.** (Pages 5 - 6)
- 6 **WRITTEN QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL** (Pages 7 - 10)
- 10 **TO CONSIDER MOTIONS OF WHICH NOTICE HAS BEEN GIVEN.** (Pages 11 - 12)

Copies of the documents referred to above can be obtained from
<http://cde.bromley.gov.uk/>

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COUNCIL MEETING

8th DECEMBER 2014

QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

Questions for Oral Reply

(1) From Patricia Trembath, Chair, Crystal Palace Community Development Trust, to the Portfolio Holder for Resources

What are the statutory and other duties and responsibilities placed on a local authority to maintain properties which it owns and manages on behalf of local council tax payers?

(2) From Steve Barnes to the Portfolio Holder for the Environment

What ownership and actions are Bromley Council putting in place to actively improve the poor broadband speeds suffered in the rural parts of the borough that have been overlooked by the major service providers ? This includes Downe, Cudham, Chelsfield and Keston villages.

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COUNCIL MEETING

8th December 2014

QUESTIONS FOR ORAL REPLY FROM MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL

1. From Cllr Michael Rutherford to the Portfolio Holder for Renewal and Recreation

How have levels of employment in Bromley changed over the last three years, and how does that compare to the three years leading to May 2010?

2. From Cllr Kathy Bance MBE to the Portfolio Holder for Care Services

Can the Portfolio Holder confirm that there will be an emergency homeless hostel in Bromley this winter.

3. From Cllr Ian Dunn to the Portfolio Holder for the Environment

Will the Portfolio Holder confirm whether the Council will be following previous practice and waiving road closure notice fees for the Big Lunch in June 2015?

4. From Cllr Angela Wilkins to the Portfolio Holder for the Environment

When preparing for the privatisation of "Facilities Management", how will the financial value of the current input of volunteers (eg Bromley Countryside Volunteers and various Friends groups) into work done in our parks be calculated? What will the Council do to find out the effect of any privatisation of the parks services on the willingness of these volunteers to continue to make their contribution? Does the Portfolio Holder agree with me that there is a danger here of a contract being implemented which could easily overlook the contribution made by these volunteers and that the natural environment of our Borough would suffer as a consequence?

5. From Cllr Nicholas Bennett JP to the Portfolio Holder for Resources

What progress is being made with regard to the application by residents of Long Meadow Close, West Wickham, to purchase land owned by the Council adjacent to their back gardens?

6. From Cllr Tony Owen to the Portfolio Holder for Resources

What is the name and address of the resident allowing their name to be used for a phishing expedition of Bromley's accounts by a non-resident of the borough? How much has this cost the local taxpayer? What could this sum have provided by way of local services?

7. From Cllr Kathy Bance MBE to the Portfolio Holder for Care Services

A Bromley Borough Councillor recently responded to DPAC that Bromley Borough

residents are not dependant on food banks but that our residents suffered more from obesity. Now that Oxfam have advised that Bromley residents are the second highest number of users of food banks in the capital does he accept that this is wrong?

8. From Cllr Angela Wilkins to the Portfolio Holder for the Environment

We recently arranged for several senior officers to visit Crystal Palace ward to inspect the generally poor levels of street cleaning and to look at some typical examples of erratic, incomplete or otherwise unacceptable service levels on waste and recycling collection.

There has been some minor improvement in one or two areas, but some specific problems are ongoing, and overall street cleaning we believe is still below an acceptable standard.

Could the portfolio holder please comment on the following possible explanations:

- The contract has been underpriced and the contractor is unable to deliver the service for the agreed price
- The contract has been suitably priced but the Contractor's own management and monitoring functions are inadequate
- The Council has not adequately resourced its contract management and monitoring function

9. From Cllr Nicholas Bennett JP to the Portfolio Holder for Resources

If he will set out the guidance from CIPFA and the DCLG as to when repairs, renewal or improvements to a highways asset may be treated as a capital item rather than a revenue one?

10. From Cllr Tony Owen to the Portfolio Holder for Care Services

What analysis is available of the number of heavy consumers of care service resources? How much demand on services is failure demand (failure to do something or do something right for a 'customer')? What % time is spent doing value work (for service users)?

11. From Cllr Kathy Bance MBE to the Portfolio Holder for Renewal and Recreation

Why is the Borough working against the local community by adding its political weight to opposing applications for Assets of Community Value. This is seen clearly in the way it opposed the application for Assets of Community Value for Snowdon Close.

12. From Cllr Nicholas Bennett JP to the Portfolio Holder for Resources

What information does he have as to the ownership of the former Health Centre in Hawes Lane, West Wickham, how long the site has been redundant and what plans the owners have to bring the site back into use?

COUNCIL MEETING

8th December 2014

QUESTIONS FOR WRITTEN REPLY FROM MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL

1. From Cllr Russell Mellor to the Chairman of the Pensions Investment Sub-Committee

HM Government undertook to grant Scotland powers to determine their own taxation levels during the devolution referendum. In view of the fact that two of our Pension Fund Managers are located in Scotland, can you advise me of any adverse effects our funds would suffer as a result of the change in the tax regime, particularly cross border investments.

2. From Cllr Russell Mellor to the Portfolio Holder for the Environment.

Can the Portfolio holder advise me as to the number of claims entered against the Council for injuries sustained by Residents due to accidents caused by damaged pavements?

In addition, can the Portfolio holder advise me of the number of claims, which have been settled together with the total amount of costs paid?

3. From Cllr Simon Fawthrop to the Portfolio Holder for Education

In each of the last 4 years how many (in numbers) of Bromley's looked after Children were entered into entrance exams for selective schools?

- a) 2010
- b) 2011
- c) 2012
- d) 2013

4. From Cllr Simon Fawthrop to the Portfolio Holder for Education

In each of the last 4 years how many looked after children (in numbers) were successful in gaining a place at a Russell Group University?

- a) 2010
- b) 2011
- c) 2012
- d) 2013

5. From Cllr Vanessa Allen to the Portfolio Holder for the Environment

Will the Portfolio Holder provide a schedule of street cleaning for Clock House Ward?

6. From Cllr Kathy Bance MBE to the Portfolio Holder for the Environment

Please advise the annual revenue and cost of operation for each of the Borough's car parks in the Penge and Cator ward. Which of those are full to capacity on a regular basis?

7. From Cllr Kathy Bance MBE to the Portfolio Holder for Education

With the forecast cut to education and youth budget from city hall of up to 90% will Bromley Council be in a position to support our current youth services and continue to support any maintained schools we may still have responsibility for?

8. From Cllr Kathy Bance MBE to the Portfolio Holder for Renewal and Recreation

There is a GLA survey ongoing called "Join the Dots". What has been the Borough's involvement in this and what impact might its final report and recommendations have on plans for the communities of Penge, Anerley and Crystal Palace? Has there been any financial cost to the Borough?

9. From Cllr Kevin Brooks to the Portfolio Holder for the Environment

Will the Portfolio Holder provide a schedule of street cleaning for Penge & Cator Ward?

10. From Cllr Kevin Brooks to the Portfolio Holder for the Environment

To what extent will the Council consider and evaluate the environmental performance of those contractors who may enter future tendering processes? What progress has been made and is expected in relation to compliance with ISO 14001?

11. From Cllr Ian Dunn to the Portfolio Holder for Resources

Will the Portfolio Holder provide a breakdown of current Council Tax Support claimants, broken down by working age / pensioner, Council Tax band and whether they are liable for the full charge or eligible for 25% discount?

12. From Cllr Ian Dunn to the Portfolio Holder for Resources

Will the Portfolio holder provide statistics on how much housing benefit was paid during 2013/14 to each Housing Association and to private landlords? How many individual cases do each of these represent?

13. From Cllr Angela Wilkins to the Leader of the Council

The November meeting of E&R PDS had been scheduled for several weeks previously to receive a report on the future of Anerley Town Hall.

The report was not published until a matter of hours before the meeting at which it was to be discussed. The report incorrectly stated that local members had been consulted.

I am grateful to Cllr Carr for his intervention which postponed this extremely important discussion and decision about the future of the building and the community and business activities it facilitates.

However, what action can be taken to ensure that in future, reports and other documents are made available to members in good time and that local members are in fact consulted where appropriate?

14. From Cllr Angela Wilkins to the Portfolio Holder for Resources

In relation to Anerley Town Hall, could you please provide details of both those works identified and those works carried out since 2005 in terms of the planned programme, reactive maintenance and cyclical maintenance programmes?

15. From Cllr Richard Williams to the Portfolio Holder for the Environment

Will the Portfolio Holder provide a schedule of street cleaning for Crystal Palace Ward?

16. From Cllr Peter Fookes to the Portfolio Holder for the Environment

Will he give priority to clearing leaves in and around primary schools, ie, the state of Malcolm Rd in Penge on Saturday 29th November?

17. From Cllr Peter Fookes to the Portfolio Holder for the Environment

When will all the bins at 120 Oakfield Rd, Penge be emptied as one has not been emptied for nearly a year?

18. From Cllr Peter Fookes to the Portfolio Holder for the Environment

When will the trees adjacent to Homebase in Oakfield Rd be pruned?

19. From Cllr Nicholas Bennett JP to the Portfolio Holder for Renewal and Recreation

If he will provide the following information in table format for each London Borough and for Sevenoaks, and Tatsfield District Councils and Dartford Borough Council for latest period for which statistics are available;

- i. number of planning committees in each authority;
- ii. whether the committees meet in the evening or daytime;
- iii. the number of applications received annually;
- iv. percentage of applications dealt with by committee;
- v. the percentage of the authority area in the Green Belt?

20. From Cllr Nicholas Bennett JP to the Portfolio Holder for Renewal and Recreation

If he will list the number of 'call ins' by ward for each of the past three years (including the current year), and the number called in and refused and the number subsequently allowed on appeal?

21. From Cllr Nicholas Bennett JP to the Portfolio Holder for Renewal and Recreation

If he will give for the past three years (including the current year) the number and percentage of applications refused by -

- (a) delegated authority
- (b) by committee

and the number and percentage in each category which were subsequently allowed on appeal?

22. From Cllr Tony Owen to the Chairman of Development Control Committee

Please give a timeline listing all communication (emails, letters and phone calls) relating to the following planning applications from initial application through to appeal decisions.

- (a) 18 Oatfield Road, Orpington
- (b) 2 Queensway, Petts Wood

COUNCIL MEETING

8th DECEMBER 2014

MOTIONS

(1) Superfast Broadband

To be moved by Cllr Will Harmer and seconded by Cllr Lydia Buttinger

This Council notes the Government's recent £1 billion investment to secure superfast broadband to 90% of the UK by 2016 and has already seen the positive impact that this investment has in supporting businesses both across the country and in the neighbouring County of Kent.

However, it is disappointed that as a London Borough, Bromley is ineligible for any funding under the Superfast Broadband Programme to improve the very poor provision of Superfast Broadband in the rural parts of the Borough.

It requests that the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport and the Greater London Authority ("GLA") meet with the Council to discuss how best it can meet the Programme objectives and the needs of our residents and businesses in rural areas and if funding could be extended to provide the required investment.

(2) Financial Transaction Tax

To be moved by Cllr Angela Wilkins and seconded by Cllr Ian Dunn.

It is wrong that local authority funding is continuing to be cut and essential services are being hit to in order to pay for the bailout to the financial sector. This Council therefore calls on the Government to introduce a Financial Transaction Tax in order that more resources can be made available to local councils.

(3) Devolution of powers and finance to local councils

To be moved by Cllr Nicholas Bennett JP and seconded by Cllr Colin Smith

This Council notes the proposal to give Scotland more devolved responsibilities and tax raising powers and believes that, as far as practicable, responsibility for local services and their financing should also be devolved down to the most appropriate level of government in England and therefore calls upon the Government to examine how this can be achieved as soon as possible.

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